



February 2011

[Nebraska Department of Education](#)

Office of Multicultural/Native  
American Education

[www.education.ne.gov/mce](http://www.education.ne.gov/mce)

# Teachable moments do not always have a curriculum guide

Editorial by Carol Rempp

As time goes by and we grow older we get the pleasure (?) of marking milestones. I just read a piece by former kindergarten teacher Susan Andersen about the day 25 years ago when the Challenger exploded. Later this year we will commemorate the 10 anniversary of 9/11. In December we will commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pearl Harbor. It's been 46 years since JFK was assassinated and 43 years since MLK Jr. suffered the same fate. Every one of these moments in history offers a teachable moment.

As Susan Andersen recalled in her piece *The Day that Caterpillars Crawled across the sky* "There is not a curriculum guide for the hardest of life's questions. There is only respect for each other's opinions and helping each child find an answer that will do until they develop a better one. The best thing a teacher can do is remember the questions. Questions are more important than the answers. Learning about life is continuous and doing what you love in life may be the best teacher. That is what Christa McAuliffe taught us."

There is no curriculum guide to everything that is important for us to teach our children. There is no guide that says we must always teach this and never teach



that. However, we all have a moral guide as educators and policy makers to think about the future of our children and we need to use that guide to help us make decisions that will help our children understand the global community around them. We need to use that guide to help our children grow and learn from the experiences, both joyful and heartbreaking, in order to become adults who understand the importance of social justice. America's children, no matter their background or color of skin have opportunities rivaled by no other nation.





Find out what song is in that commercial. It's in your head and bumps around your brain and happiness when you finally remember the tune in the most bizarre places.

### theGrio's 100 History Makers in the Making

In honor of Black History Month features several education reformers, including MSNBC's **Rehema Ellis**, teacher-led school founder **Dominique Lee**, and E3's **Derrell Bradford** (EEP signatory).

This website is packed full of information for educators and students

<http://www.thegrio.com>.

### Celebrate the Freedom Riders During Black History Month

As **Black History Month** gets under way today, don't forget that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the **Freedom Rides**. In the spring and summer of 1961, black and white students risked their lives to integrate bus facilities across the South.

<http://freedomridersfoundation.org>

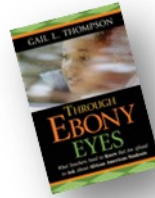
### Planting Seeds, Growing Diversity

Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) classes have long been dominated by white males. [This article](#) in the latest issue of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine shows that there are many ways to make these fields more attractive to girls and students of color.

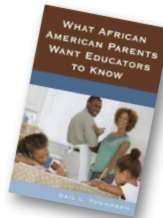
<http://www.tolerance.org>

## Read the Multicultural Book Review

### Dr. Gail Thompson, featured author



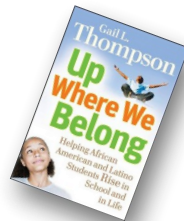
Through Ebony Eyes: What Teachers / Need to Know but are Afraid to Ask About African American Students. Research from 175 educators provide information and strategies that will help teachers. ISBN: 978-0-7879-8769-5 Paperback, 352 pages, April 2007



What African American Parents Want Educators to Know Feedback from African American parents pertaining to their children's school experiences. ISBN: 9780897898935 Paperback, 232 pages, 2003



A Brighter Day: How Parents Can Help African American Youth Fantastic real-life stories that are motivational. Strategy guide for parents ISBN: 9781935521747 Paperback, 225 pages, 2010



Up Where We Belong: Helping African American and Latino Students Rise in School and Life Students in low performing schools are candid about their high school experiences. ISBN: 9780787995973 Paperback, 352 pages, 2007



The Power of One: How You Can Help or Harm African American Students Interactive staff development resource helps educators deal with the main barriers-often personal assumptions or mind-sets-that can impede their progress with African American K-12 students. ISBN: 9781412976763



## The Death of a Student - One School's Response

Tim Raba, Principal Lennox High School  
Joan Huber, School Counselor Lennox High School  
Lennox, South Dakota

In October 2010, our local school and community experienced the loss of a High School student due to a car accident. While this is an all-too-familiar tragedy in many schools and communities across the country, we at



RYI were impressed with the caring and compassionate, yet organized and professional response from the school administration and staff. Our hope is that the following, written by Lennox High School Principal, Tim Raba, might help other

schools in their process of preparing for a similar crisis.

Experiencing the death of a student is the most difficult situation with which we as school administrators, teachers, and support staff must deal. Regardless of the cause of death, each has a profound effect of those that knew the student. Following the death, the effects on the family and other students are immediately shown as one would expect. Shock precedes grief.

School is a central feature in young people's lives. As such, it is a natural setting for students to start to try to make sense of a tragic occurrence. The role of the school is to provide students a place to come to be with others in a safe and understanding atmosphere where they have the opportunity to begin working through the grieving process. How well a school functions during these stressful times is dependent on how well the staff is prepared to handle these situations.

## Carl Jesness Meets LSCI: A Fresh Look at the Massaging Numb Values Youth



Submitted by: JC Chambers, RYI Board Chairman

"Guilt is the very nerve of sorrow" ~ Anonymous

All of us have worked with young students that seem to act out impulsively and then anxiously feel guilty for the behavior. These kids tend to bear a cross of deeply felt guilt, remorse, inadequacy and shame. Wood and Long (1991) indicate that "guilt is a more complex form of inadequacy in which the sum of judgments about the student's worth transfers from outside to self." (p. 55) Wood and Long (1991) go on to describe a youth they called Massaging Numb Values (MNV) who feels the above internally and sets out to right his wrong behavior by seeking punishment to reduce their guilt.

Carl Justness (1984) describes a youth he calls a 'Neurotic Anxious' kid who, similar to the MNV youth, is struggling with a "bad me" self image. These are young people who have considerable conflict about who he is, what he wishes to become and is riddled with guilt feelings. Some youth have the ability to examine themselves and even value this skill and are often investigating how their past failures cause and/or predict present trouble.

[read more http://www.reclaiming.com/content/node/168](http://www.reclaiming.com/content/node/168)





For 18 months, University of Nebraska-Lincoln student journalists studied the impact that Native American women have had in the world. They worked off of the Northern Cheyenne proverb that "A nation isn't conquered until the hearts of its women lay on the ground."

Those journalists learned about amazing women, such as Danelle Smith, who raised herself from a pregnant teen freaking out on the reservation to a highly respected lawyer who fights for the rights of her Winnebago people. They met Winona LaDuke, who is changing the way her Minnesota reservation thinks about the environment, from how they get their energy and food to how they live their lives.

A 140-page magazine for your classroom. Inside, readers can find profiles and in-depth stories on seven themes: Lawgivers, Artists, Environmentalists, Storytellers, Healers, Warriors and Leaders. We envision those stories playing right into the hands of English teachers (Storytellers), art teachers (Artists), science teachers (Environmentalists and Healers) and history teachers (Lawgivers, Warriors and Leaders).

## Native DAUGHTERS

Who they are,  
Where they've been  
and why Indian  
Country could never  
survive without them.



Contact Professor Joe Starita at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to order your copies. Each magazine is \$10 and \$7 each for quantities of 50 or more. Email Dr. Starita at [jstarita2@unl.edu](mailto:jstarita2@unl.edu)



## Chief Standing Bear Ceremonies

May 20, 2011

Breakfast-Embassy Suites, Lincoln NE

Keynote: Joseph Marshall, narrator of the Chief Standing Bear PBS documentary.

Visit the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs

[http://www.indianaffairs.state.ne.us/chief\\_standing\\_bear.html](http://www.indianaffairs.state.ne.us/chief_standing_bear.html)

Scholarship and essay contest information on following page



## Diverse Faces, Shared Histories

Immigrants on the Great Plains



March 4, 2011

<http://www.unl.edu/plains/seminars/2011%20Symposium/program.shtml> for more detailed program information and poster.

## Great Plains Art Museum

Lincoln NE

This one-day symposium features national and state scholars and writers speaking on various aspects regarding the history, politics, and personal narratives on immigration. Native, Asian, African American, and Latino perspectives vary yet share overlapping histories. The symposium is designed to broaden our perspectives about immigration on the Great Plains.

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC**



### 2011 Rapid City SD Seminars from Reclaiming Youth

[www.reclaiming.com](http://www.reclaiming.com)

Life Space Crisis Intervention	June 20-24
Deep Brain Learning	June 22
Responsive Ability Pathways	June 23-24
Development Audit	June 23-24
Circle of Courage	June 25
Reclaiming Youth Conference	June 25-28



### Accountability Counts 2011 State Data Conference April 18/19, Kearney NE

New tests, data collections, and reporting responsibilities are changing what we know about ourselves and what others will know about us! Accountability Counts! 2011 State Data Conference will have a dual focus this year: collecting and using data. It will be held in the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, the new facility behind the Hampton Inn, starting at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, April 18th and closing by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19th. This is an opportunity to learn the latest, visit with NDE staff, and have personalized answers at the popular Information Tables.

<http://www.education.ne.gov>



June 9-10, 2011

Ashland Greenwood Middle/High School

## ESL Methods

ESL Methods for K-12 Teachers offered with K-State

ESL Methods aligned with RTI and MTSS  
Culturally Responsive Instruction

Coming in 2011. Enroll or get more information at  
[www.dce.k-state.edu/education/esl](http://www.dce.k-state.edu/education/esl)

Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals Working with Families Living in Poverty with Young Children

May 16-17, 2011 Kearney NE

Free workshop

Registration form and information

<http://edn.ne.gov/registration/registration2.php>



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES	Award	Eligibility	Deadline
<p><b><u>We Can Change the World Challenge Gr K-12</u></b>                      The <a href="#">Siemens Foundation</a>, <a href="#">Discovery Education</a>, and the <a href="#">National Science Teachers Association</a> have announced the launch of the third annual Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge, a program designed to educate, empower, and engage students and teachers across the United States to become "Agents of Change" in identifying and solving environmental problems. Teams will be judged on both their ability to create a positive, measurable solution to a local sustainability issue or challenge using scientific methodology and their ability to explain how the solution can be replicated by other communities. Student and teacher/mentor prizes, which vary according to grade level, include savings bonds and school grants. <a href="http://www.wecanchange.com/">http://www.wecanchange.com/</a></p>	Savings bonds and school grants	Environmental problems	March 15
<p><b><u>Pathways Within Roads to Reading Initiative</u></b>                      The Pathways Within Roads to Reading Initiative donates books to literacy programs in small and rural low-income communities. Maximum award: 200 books appropriate for readers age 0 to young adult; English only. Eligibility: 501(c)3 organizations that run school, after-school, summer, community, day-care, and library reading and literacy programs; must have an annual operating budget of less than \$95,000 (schools and libraries are exempt from this budget requirement) be located in an underserved community with a population of less than 50,000. Deadline: March 30, 2011. <a href="http://www.pwirtr.org/annual_donation_prog.html">http://www.pwirtr.org/annual_donation_prog.html</a></p>	Free books	501(c)3 organizations, after school programs, library/literacy programs	March 31
<p><b><u>ING: Unsung Heroes Awards</u></b>                      The ING Unsung Heroes awards program recognizes innovative and progressive thinking in education through monetary awards. Maximum award: \$25,000. Eligibility: full-time educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, or classified staff members with effective projects that improve student learning at an accredited K-12 public or private school. Deadline: April 30, 2011. <a href="http://ing.us/about-ing/citizenship/childrens-education/ing-unsung-heroes">http://ing.us/about-ing/citizenship/childrens-education/ing-unsung-heroes</a></p>	\$25,000	Full-time educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, or classified staff members	April 30
<p><b><u>Annie's Gardens</u></b>                      Annie's Grants for Gardens from Annie's Homegrown help schools and nonprofits in the United States that intend to create gardens. The focus of these grants is on schools, community gardens, and other educational programs that will connect children to gardening. <a href="http://www.annies.com/grants_for_gardens">http://www.annies.com/grants_for_gardens</a></p>	\$250	Schools for community gardens and educational programs	Open

## Chief Standing Bear Scholarship and Essay Contest



### Scholarship Information (deadline March 15)

Two \$1,000 scholarships

1. American Indian students who are enrolled in a tribe (proof required) and;
2. Nebraska resident and;
3. Will be attending a higher-education institution (4 yr college/university, community college, technical schools) in the fall of 2011.
4. Essay of 500-600 words with nomination form

Scholarship application form, essay criteria and other information available at

[http://www.indianaffairs.state.ne.us/chief\\_standing\\_bear.html](http://www.indianaffairs.state.ne.us/chief_standing_bear.html)

Or <http://www.education.ne.gov/mce>.

### McDonald's Chief Standing Bear Essay Contest (deadline April 11)



Generate awareness of our youth and community of the many accomplishments of Ponca Chief Stand Bear

Elementary Grades 4-5

3 paragraphs; original thinking/own options

Topic choice reflected in essay

1. What can you do today to carry on chief Standing Bear's vision of equality?
2. What would Chief Standing Bear do if he was alive today?

Include student name, grade, school, school address, contact phone and email address. A signed release form is required and can be obtained at the Commission's website or Nebraska Department of Education at <http://www.education.ne.gov/mce>. Mail to Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, PO Box 94981, Lincoln NE 68509-4981 or email to [scott.w.shafer@nebraska.gov](mailto:scott.w.shafer@nebraska.gov) on or before April 11.

4 statewide winners

\$50 McDonald Arch Card

Opportunity to read essay at the Chief Standing Bear Breakfast May 20

McDonalds will publish essay winners on tray liners to be distributed in Nebraska restaurants.



## 6th Annual Nebraska Youth First Conference

*Show Me The Future*



Central Nebraska Youth  
First Conference  
2011

Transition  
through  
Technology

March 29, 2011  
Holiday Inn  
Kearney, Nebraska

Deadline March 2, 2011

Students with developmental disabilities, ages 14-21.  
Sponsored by ESU 11, Nebraska Department  
of Education Assistive Technology Partnership,  
Region III, Vocational Rehabilitation

<http://atp.ne.gov/events/11-3-29NETCkearney.pdf>



Students of transition age 16-21 and participate in work-based learning.

**"Using Technology at School, Work, Home and in the Community"**

ESU #13, Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership

**April 5, 2011, Scottsbluff**

<http://atp.ne.gov/events/11-4-5fycScottsbluff.pdf>



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Need Some  
Help with  
Tuition?



## Student Scholarship Opportunities

<b>American Indian Alaska Native Student Programs: 14TH ANNUAL PATTY IRON CLOUD NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH INITIATIVE June 18-26 Washington DC Internship.</b> <a href="http://www.aaip.org/?page=NNAYI">http://www.aaip.org/?page=NNAYI</a> , The Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) is now accepting applications for the 14th Annual Patty Iron Cloud National Native American Youth Initiative, which will be held on the George Washington University campus in Washington D.C. American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) high school students, ages 16- 18, who have an interest in the health field and/or biomedical research are encouraged to apply. Selected high school students will receive a scholarship that will cover airfare, lodging, and most meals during the NNAYI program.	Internship	High school & undergraduates interested in pursuing health careers	March 21
<b>Chief Standing Bear Scholarship</b> Essay contests. Entry information and forms at Commission on Indian Affairs <a href="http://www.indianaffairs.state.ne.us/chief_standing_bear.html">http://www.indianaffairs.state.ne.us/chief_standing_bear.html</a>	\$1,000 Scholarship	American Indian student enrolled in a tribe and will be attending a higher education institution in Fall 2011.	March 15
<b>Thurgood Marshall College Fund</b> Merit based and financial need. <a href="http://www.thurgoodmarshallfund.net/student/scholarshipprograms">http://www.thurgoodmarshallfund.net/student/scholarshipprograms</a>	\$2,200 per semester	African American students	Several deadlines
<b>Ulman Cancer fund for Young Adults</b> Ulman Cancer fund for Young Adults is committed to helping young adults continue their education after being affected by cancer through their own diagnosis or the diagnosis of a loved one. <a href="http://www.ulmanfund.org/University-Outreach/College-Scholarship-Program.aspx">http://www.ulmanfund.org/University-Outreach/College-Scholarship-Program.aspx</a>	\$2,500 over 2 semesters	At least 15 yr old	April 1
<b>Hispanic College Fund</b> A host of scholarships for Hispanic students. <a href="http://www.hispanicfund.org/">http://www.hispanicfund.org/</a>		various	Varies starting NOW

Newsletter Editor: Carol Rempp  
[carol.rempp@nebraska.gov](mailto:carol.rempp@nebraska.gov)

Co-editor, Layout/Design: Peg Kirby  
[peg.kirby@nebraska.gov](mailto:peg.kirby@nebraska.gov)



301 Centennial Mall South  
 Lincoln NE 68509

402 471 2960  
<http://www.education.ne.gov/mce>